

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 0 6

the NICHOLSON family

✧ What are your passions? ✧

EARRINGS & SHOES; CHOCOLATE & CRICKET; CHALLENGING MORE PEOPLE TO SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH TAIWAN'S WORKING CLASS



Mayor of Taipei barks on TV!

Viewers were surprised when the Mayor of Taipei, tipped to be the next President, began barking on Chinese New Year's TV broadcast. Mayor Ma's "Wang Wang, Wang, Wang!" is how Chinese dogs bark. "Wang" also sounds like a Chinese character for prosperity. All thoughts at this time revolve around how to achieve a lucky Year of the Dog.

We will be in Australia from June to August this year to indulge in our passions - well, maybe just the last one!!

It's time for home assignment (HA) again after having been away this term for 3 1/2 years. Some of you will ask why such a brief HA. We should be home for nearly a year but OMF is more flexible now to fit in the many variables in a missionary's life. The biggest disadvantage to coming home for a year is the boys' schooling. School here follows the northern hemisphere year, so taking a year out would make it hard to adjust. Furthermore, in high school, the subjects in Australia are significantly different to school here. So we have decided to take our home

assignments during the June to August holiday break. We anticipate that we will do this every 2 years.

Our time in Australia will be quite short. In order to fulfil our role as mobilisers we will be doing a lot more travelling and

Home Assignment Needs

- a reliable car
- somewhere furnished to stay from May 27th-July 3rd. We will be with family the rest of the time.
- people to take the boys out to play sport, bush walk, camp, etc.

speaking at conferences. We will really only be in Sydney for the month of June. The rest of the time we will be travelling in New Zealand, & Melbourne and finishing at Reachout in Katoomba.

Coffee Group has a baby

Jan 1st saw the baptism of Fion, the first convert from the school Coffee Group's bible study

Fion's father firstly refused to go to her baptism but eventually relented. Her husband and family all remarked at the change in her since she became a Christian. Her testimony so impressed her sister that she was willing to travel 1 1/2 hours to church in winter (!) to find this "peace". Since then Fion's

sister and brother-in-law have also become Christians through Esther, the Coffee Group bible study leader. We are thrilled. There are a number of others who come to coffee who are also near the kingdom.





Phil's European trip

Smart evangelism using Smart cars - "the smallest church in the world"; speaking at churches, Bible colleges & youth conferences; travelling from the south to the north & back again; sitting up formally for German afternoon tea; learning about OMF Germany; sharing our

needs in Taiwan; visiting missionaries on home assignment; preaching in Switzerland & visiting good friends; cold, ice & snow - lots of snow.

OMF Germany is praying to send 10 workers to Taiwan.

FOR PRAYER

Phil catching up with many responsibilities after being away for much of the last 2 months.

Irene goes to Chiang Mai for 2 weeks in February for pre-home assignment conference.

Zac is struggling with maths, Ben had his bike stolen in January.

Please pray for protection as we feel under some spiritual and physical attack recently.



MTS CONFERENCE

In December Phil spent 2 weeks in Sydney attending an Ministry Training Strategy conference to help us set up a missionary apprenticeship in Taiwan. It was very helpful and there is now much to be done in preparing materials and training other missionaries.

THANK GOD FOR FAITH!!

Last newsletter we asked you to pray for the kids' ministry in Wanhwa. In

November Irene met Faith, a Singaporean girl who teaches self expression through drama in schools and churches. Although her time in Taiwan was short, we were able to arrange for her to run a workshop to help us with some of the issues we were dealing with in Wanhwa and also get a whole lot of new ideas. God sent her along at just the right time to give us much needed input. We start up again on March 1st after the Chinese New Year break.

TEAM FROM SYDNEY

Prayers were answered for a team from a Sydney church came to run Christmas evangelistic activities for

CEF and a church in Pingtung in the south. Some highlights include taking their Christmas play and songs to the verandah of the church which fronts the main road and is next to a department store where they sang and performed very enthusiastically to all the passers-by. The team also found themselves on the national newspapers after one of their performances. They worked very hard in their time here and their hosting church was very happy with what they did.

